

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A safety hook comprising:
a main shaft;
a chain receiving portion disposed at a first end of said main shaft and dimensioned to receive a chain for coupling a trailer to a towing vehicle;
a first bend disposed at a second end of said main shaft substantially vertically in-line with the chain receiving portion and positioned to extend toward the same side of the main shaft as the chain receiving portion; and
a second bend depending from said first bend that bends in substantially the opposite direction of the first bend, wherein said second bend has a terminal end that does not extend beyond said first bend.
2. (Previously presented) The safety hook of claim 1 wherein said main shaft, said first bend and said second bend are co-planar.
3. (Previously presented) The safety hook of claim 1 wherein said first bend includes a first straight portion.
4. (Previously presented) The safety hook of claim 3 wherein said first straight portion is substantially parallel to said main shaft.
5. (Previously presented) The safety hook of claim 1 wherein said second bend includes a second straight portion.
6. (Previously presented) The safety hook of claim 5 wherein said second straight portion is substantially parallel to said main shaft.
7. (Previously presented) The safety hook of claim 4 wherein said second bend includes a straight portion.
8. (Previously presented) The safety hook of claim 7 wherein said second straight portion is substantially parallel to said main shaft and substantially parallel to said first straight portion.
9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) The safety hook of claim 1 wherein the main shaft, first bend and second bend are integrally formed.

11. (Currently amended) A safety hook comprising:

a main shaft;

a chain receiving portion disposed at a first end of said main shaft and dimensioned to receive a chain for coupling a trailer to a towing vehicle;

a first bend disposed at a second end of said main shaft and substantially vertically in-line with the chain receiving portion and positioned to extend toward the same side of the main shaft as the chain receiving portion; and

a second bend depending from said first bend that bends in substantially the opposite direction of the first bend;

wherein ~~said second bend~~, said chain receiving portion, said first bend and said second bend are substantially co-planar.

12. (Currently amended) A safety hook comprising:

a main shaft;

a chain receiving portion disposed at a first end of said main shaft and dimensioned to receive a chain for coupling a trailer to a towing vehicle;

a first bend disposed at a second end of said main shaft substantially vertically in-line with the chain receiving portion and positioned to extend toward the same side of the main shaft as the chain receiving portion; and

a second bend depending from said first bend that bends in substantially the opposite direction of the first bend.

13. (Currently amended) A safety hook comprising:

a main shaft;

a chain receiving portion disposed at a first end of said main shaft and dimensioned to receive a chain for coupling a trailer to a towing vehicle;

a first bend disposed at a second end of said main shaft substantially vertically in-line with the chain receiving portion and positioned to extend toward the same side of the main shaft

as the chain receiving portion, the first bend having a first straight portion substantially parallel to said main shaft; and

a second bend depending from said first straight portion and bending in substantially the opposite direction of the first bend, wherein said second bend has a second straight portion substantially parallel to said main shaft.

14. (Currently amended) A security hook for coupling a trailer to a towing vehicle using a chain, the chain being engaged with the trailer, the towing vehicle having a platform with a hole therein, the security hook comprising:

a main shaft having a first end and second end;

a chain receiving portion extending from the first end of the main shaft and dimensioned to receive the chain; and

a U-shaped hook extending from the second end of the main shaft substantially vertically in-line with the chain receiving portion and positioned to extend toward the same side of the main shaft as the chain receiving portion, the U-shaped hook dimensioned to engage the hole in the towing vehicle platform.

15. (Currently amended) The security hook of claim 14, further comprising a second hook having a first end and a second end, wherein the first end of the second hook is attached to the U-shaped hook, and wherein in an installed configuration, the second end of the second hook contacts an underside of the ~~to~~ towing vehicle platform.

16. (Withdrawn) A method for hooking two devices together, the first device having an opening and an undersurface, the second device having an opening, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a hook having a first U-shaped element and a second U-shaped element in-line with each other, the second U-shaped element having a free end,

hooking the second U-shaped element through the opening of the first device,

hooking the first U-shaped element through the opening of the second device, and

positioning the free end of the second U-shaped element adjacent the undersurface.

17. (Withdrawn) A method of making a security hook, comprising the steps of:

providing a straight bar having a first end and a second end;

bending the first end of the straight bar to form a chain receiving portion;
bending the second end of the straight bar in a first direction to form a first bend;
bending the second end of the straight bar in a second direction to form a second bend,
wherein the second direction is substantially opposite to the first direction, and wherein the first bend and the chain receiving portion are substantially in-line with each other.

18. (Withdrawn) The safety hook of claim 1 wherein the main shaft includes a protrusion formed thereon.

19. (Withdrawn) The safety hook of claim 18 wherein the protrusion has an end, and wherein the end of the protrusion is wider than the main shaft.

20. (Withdrawn) The safety hook of claim 1 wherein said chain receiving portion includes a notch formed therein.

21. (Withdrawn) The safety hook of claim 20 wherein said chain receiving portion includes an arm, and wherein said arm forms from an open position to a closed position at said notch.

22. (Withdrawn) The safety hook of claim 21 wherein the main shaft includes a protrusion formed thereon.

23. (Withdrawn) The security hook of claim 14 wherein the main shaft includes a protrusion formed thereon.

24. (Withdrawn) The security hook of claim 14 wherein said chain receiving portion includes a notch formed therein.

25. (Withdrawn) A method of securing a safety hook on a chain, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) defining a notch in the safety hook,
- b) placing the chain on a chain receiving portion of the safety hook, and
- c) forming an arm portion of the chain receiving portion from an open position to a closed position, wherein the arm portion bends at said notch.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 25 further comprising the step of providing a protrusion on the safety hook, wherein the chain receiving portion and protrusion cooperate to prevent the chain from coming off of the chain receiving portion.

27. (Withdrawn) A security hook comprising:

a shaft having a first and a second opposing ends;
a chain receiving portion disposed on the first end of the shaft, the chain receiving portion having an arm and configured to receive a chain therein;
a bend disposed on the second end of the shaft; and
a first blocking member protruding from the shaft toward the arm of the chain receiving portion.

28. (Withdrawn) The security hook of claim 27 wherein the first blocking member is tapered.

29. (Withdrawn) The security hook of claim 27 wherein the arm of the chain receiving portion is tapered.

30. (Withdrawn) The security hook of claim 27, further comprising a second blocking member extending from the chain receiving portion.

32. (Withdrawn) The security hook of claim 30 wherein the second blocking member is in a facing relationship with the first blocking member.

33. (Withdrawn) A security hook, comprising:

a shaft having a first and a second opposing ends;
a chain receiving portion disposed on the first end of the shaft, the chain receiving portion having an arm and configured to receive a chain therein;
a bend disposed on the second end of the shaft; and
a first blocking means for blocking the path of the chain protruding from the shaft toward the arm of the chain receiving portion.

34. (Withdrawn) The security hook of claim 33, further comprising a second blocking means for blocking the path of the chain extending from the chain receiving portion.